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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,307	06/24/2003	Kenneth M. Rose	CIS0199US	9007

33031 7590 03/23/2007
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EXAMINER

LEE, ANDREW CHUNG CHEUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,307

Applicant(s)

ROSE ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew C. Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States

2. Claims 1 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Paulwels (US 20010030974 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Pauwels teaches the limitation of a method comprising: transmitting a first data stream to a switch fabric, said first data stream having a first priority ("traffic from lower priority classified queues" correlates to transmitting a first data stream to a switch fabric, said first data stream having a first priority; Page 1, paragraph [0013]); and at any time during said transmission, interrupting said transmission of said first data stream ("traffic has arrived at a queue having a higher priority classification than the queue from which traffic is currently being transmitted,, suspend the current transmission" correlates to interrupting said transmission of said first data stream) to transmit a second data stream to said switch fabric, said second data stream having a second priority ("traffic has arrived at a queue having a higher priority classification" correlates to second data stream having a second priority; Page 1, paragraph [0013]).

Regarding claim 2, Pauwels teaches the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: resuming transmission of said first data stream if there is no data of said

second data stream to transmit ("once the interrupting transmission has completed, the transmission of the unfinished cell or packet can be immediately resumed from the point at which it was interrupted" correlates to resuming transmission of said first data stream if there is no data of said second data stream to transmit; page 2, paragraph [0014]) .

Regarding claim 3, Pauwels teaches the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising stopping said transmission of said first data stream; transmitting a switch code; and transmitting said second data stream (page 3, paragraph [0050], page 4, paragraph [0054]).

Regarding claim 4, Pauwels teaches the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: transmitting a switch code; and resuming transmission of said first data stream (page 3, paragraph [0051], page 4, paragraph [0054]).

Regarding claim 5, Pauwels teaches the limitation of the method of claimed wherein said first priority is a low priority ("traffic from lower priority classified queues" correlates to said first priority is a low priority); and said second priority is a high priority (traffic has arrived at a queue having a higher priority classification"; page 1, paragraph [0013]).

Regarding claim 6, Pauwels teaches the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: stopping transmission of a frame of said first data stream after detection of a

start of frame and prior to detection of an end of frame (page 3, paragraph [0053]).

Regarding claim 7, Pauwels teaches the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: transmitting data of said second data stream; and resuming transmission of data of said first data stream (page 3, paragraph [0053], page 4, paragraph [0054]).

Regarding claim 8, Pauwels teaches the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: transmitting a second priority switch code; transmitting data of said second data stream; transmitting a first priority switch code; and transmitting data of said first data stream (page 2, paragraph [0014], [0028], page 3, paragraph [0029]).

3. Claims 1 – 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ellis et al. (5497371).

Regarding claims 1, 13, 23, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of a method, an apparatus comprising: a first buffer (Fig. 2, element 28, low priority Buffer correlates to a first buffer) configured to store data of a first data stream, said data of said first data stream having a first priority ("low priority" correlates to a first priority; Fig. 2, column 4, lines 36 – 52); a second buffer (Fig 2, element 26, high priority buffer correlates to a second buffer) configured to store data of a second data stream, said data of said second data stream having a second priority ("high priority" correlates to a second priority; Fig. 2, column 4, lines 36 – 52); a priority switch circuit (Fig. 2, element 30 priority encoder correlates to a priority switch circuit) coupled to said first buffer and said second

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buffer, wherein said priority switch circuit is configured to upon detection of data of said second data stream, interrupt a transmission of data of said first data stream at any time during said transmission and transmit data of said second data stream (Fig 2, column 4, lines 40 – 66).

Regarding claim 2, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: resuming transmission of said first data stream if there is no data of said second data stream to transmit ("when the high priority buffer is emptied, the low priority packet is restarted" correlates to resuming transmission of said first data stream (low priority) if there is no data of said second data stream (high priority) to transmit; column 4, lines 61 – 63).

Regarding claims 3, 25, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method, apparatus of claimed further comprising stopping said transmission of said first data stream; transmitting a switch code; and transmitting said second data stream (Fig. 3, column 5, lines 10 – 20).

Regarding claim 4, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: transmitting a switch code; and resuming transmission of said first data stream (Fig. 3, column 4, lines 44 – 48, lines 61 – 63)

Regarding claim 5, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method of claimed wherein said first priority is a low priority ("low priority" correlates to said first priority is a low priority); and said second priority is a high priority ("high priority" correlates to said second priority is a high priority; column 4, lines 38 – 44).

Regarding claims 6, 26, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method, apparatus of claimed further comprising: stopping transmission of a frame of said first data stream after detection of a start of frame and prior to detection of an end of frame (column 4, lines 41 – 48).

Regarding claim 7, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: transmitting data of said second data stream; and resuming transmission of data of said first data stream (column 5, lines 12 – 20).

Regarding claims 8, 27, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method, apparatus of claimed further comprising: transmitting a second priority switch code; transmitting data of said second data stream; transmitting a first priority switch code; and transmitting data of said first data stream (column 4, lines 44 – 56; column 5, lines 29 – 42, 59 – 67, column 6, lines 1 – 4).

Regarding claim 9, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: storing data of said first data stream in a first FIFO (Fig. 2, element 28 low

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priority buffer and queue; column 4, lines 38 – 44); and storing data of said second data stream in a second FIFO (Fig. 2, element 26 high priority buffer and queue; column 4, lines 38 – 44).

Regarding claim 10, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method of claimed wherein said interrupting comprises: upon detection of data in said second FIFO, interrupting said first data stream (column 4, lines 41 – 44).

Regarding claim 11, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method of claimed further comprising: receiving a data stream at a line card (column 3, lines 51 – 54), said data stream comprising frames of said first data stream and frames of said second data stream; and detecting the priority of said frames of said data stream (column 3, lines 54 – 63).

Regarding claims 12, 28, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the method, apparatus of claimed further comprising: at periodic intervals during transmission of said second data stream, transmitting an amount of bytes of data of said first data stream (“it is possible for a low priority packet to be interrupted as often as required and to be fragmented to any size, depending on the arrival of high priority packets at the transmit queue” correlates to at periodic intervals during transmission of said second data stream, transmitting an amount of bytes of data of said first data stream; column 4, lines 63 – 66).

Regarding claims 14, 24, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed wherein said priority switch circuit (Fig. 2, element 30 priority encoder correlates to a priority switch circuit) is further configured to resume transmission of said first data stream if there is no data of said second data stream to transmit (column 4, lines 40 – 52, lines 61 – 63).

Regarding claim 15, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed wherein said priority switch circuit (Fig. 2, element 30 priority encoder correlates to a priority switch circuit) is further configured to transmit a first switch code after the second buffer has transmitted data of said second data stream and prior to transmission of data of said first data stream (Fig. 2, element 30 priority encoder correlates to a priority switch circuit, column 4, lines 44 – 52).

Regarding claim 16, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed wherein said priority switch circuit (Fig. 2, element 30 priority encoder correlates to a priority switch circuit) is configured to transmit a second switch code upon detection of data of said second data stream (Fig. 2, element 30 priority encoder correlates to a priority switch circuit, column 4, lines 44 – 52).

Regarding claim 17, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed wherein said priority switch circuit is further configured to interrupt transmission of said first data stream during transmission of a packet of said first data stream from said first

buffer (Fig. 3, column 5, lines 10 – 20).

Regarding claim 18, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed wherein said priority switch circuit is further configured to transmit an amount of bytes from said first data stream at periodic intervals during transmission of said second data stream from said second buffer (column 4, lines 63 – 66).

Regarding claim 20, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed further comprising: a serial link (Fig. 2) configured to serialize data received from said first and said second buffers and said priority switch circuit and transmit said serialized data to a switching fabric (serially transmitting in packets of various sizes digital data of two or more priorities over a link correlates to a serial link configured to serialize data received from said first and said second buffers; column 3, lines 51 – 54).

Regarding claim 21, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed further comprising: a plurality of buffers (Fig. 2, elements 26, 28 low priority buffer and high priority buffer correlates to a plurality of buffers), each buffer configured to store data of a data stream, each data stream having a priority level (column 4, lines 38 – 44), wherein said priority switch circuit is further configured to interrupt a transmission of one of said data streams from one of said buffers upon detection of data having a highest priority level, and transmit data having said highest priority level (Fig. 2, element 30

priority encoder correlates to a priority switch circuit; column 4, lines 40 – 66).

Regarding claim 22, Ellis et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed further comprising: a switch fabric coupled to said first and second buffers ("transmit control block" correlates to a switch fabric; Fig. 5, column 6, lines 4 – 21; custom ASIC correlates to switch fabric, column 4, lines 52 – 56).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis et al. (5497371) in view of Hebb et al. (US 6463067 B1).

Regarding claim 19, Ellis et al. fail to teach the apparatus of claimed further comprising: a port coupleable to a network device; and a forwarding engine coupled between said port and each of said first and second buffers, said forwarding engine configured to forward frames of said first data stream to said first buffer and forward second frames of said second data stream to said second buffer.

Hebb et al. teach the limitation of the apparatus of claimed further comprising: a port coupleable to a network device (Fig. 1, "line interface" correlates to a port, "network segment" correlates to a network device; column 3, lines 23 – 27); and a forwarding

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engine coupled between said port (Fig. 2, elements 20, PHY I/O and elements 22 forwarding engine) and each of said first and second buffers (Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Fig.4, elements 64), said forwarding engine configured to forward frames of said first data stream to said first buffer and forward second frames of said second data stream to said second buffer ("column 4, lines 22 – 33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis et al. to include a port coupleable to a network device; and a forwarding engine coupled between said port and each of said first and second buffers, said forwarding engine configured to forward frames of said first data stream to said first buffer and forward second frames of said second data stream to said second buffer as taught by Hebb et al. in order to provide high-speed forwarding searching along with packet classification for packet filtering purposes (Ellis et al., see column 2, lines 23 – 25).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Kadambi et al. (6952401 B1) disclose A method for load balancing in a link aggregation environment, wherein the method includes the steps of determining if a packet flow in a network switch exceeds a predetermined threshold.

- Barroso et al. (6636949 B2) disclose in a chip multiprocessor system, the coherence protocol is split into two cooperating protocols implemented by different hardware modules. One protocol is responsible for cache coherence management within the chip, and is implemented by a second-level cache controller.
- Youngblood (4980820) discloses an interrupt driven digital processing system is disclosed including routines for servicing interrupt requests received from a plurality of interrupt sources.
- Bruckman (6891855) discloses a method and apparatus for transmitting data over a channel having a variable transmission rate.
- Fichou et al. (5790522) disclose traffic congestion control is provided for a network node multiport switch capable of switching data packets of different priorities from input lines, via receive adapters, to output lines via transmit adapters.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew C. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-3131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on (571) 272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



WING CHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

/Andrew C. Lee/ :: <3/17/2007>